

Judiciary Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500  
300 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

3/18/2013

Dear Committee:

My name is Latone James & I'm 37 years old and this is my 19th year of incarceration for a crime I committed when I was a teenager. I'm writing because Conn. Legislature is looking to pass a bill to reduce the sentence of violent juvenile offender's under the age of 18 & I would like to ask the Committee to consider raising that bill to ages 18 to 19.

Although the state has made concessions about juvenile offenders under 18 based on brain study, what's the difference between being 18 to 19 when the same study concluded that the human brain doesn't fully develop until the age of 25.

I'm not upset about the sentence I received but at not being eligible for parole ~~is~~ not being given the opportunity to rehabilitate myself & prove that I can be a productive member of society.

I had a lot of pride as a teenager and pride is the main cause of violence. The definition of a criminal is subjective depending on who you are and how you grow up.


Learning from my mistakes has always been a way of life for me. What if someone was able to learn from my mistakes? That would be contribution towards a positive change.

A lot of guys like myself are basically products of what we've been exposed to and having been through what I've been through it has taught me that there are rules and values to every aspect of life.

I can be a productive member of society and a man who plays by society's rules until the end, ~~and~~ is a man to be respected.

I know I will, given the opportunity.

Sincerely,

  
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